

1 Sec. __. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

2 It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

3 (1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking
4 capacity.

5 (2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to
6 annual appropriations, continue operating through December 2027.

7 (3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options
8 for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year
9 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.

10 (4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for
11 maintaining or increasing the State’s current fish stocking following the
12 potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:

13 (i) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery
14 with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally
15 operated fish hatcheries;

16 (ii) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to
17 other State fish hatcheries;

18 (iii) establishing additional egg production at other State fish
19 hatcheries to compensate for any egg production lost due to the closure of the
20 Salisbury fish hatchery; and

1 (iv) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches
2 for replacing any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish
3 hatchery.

4 (5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting
5 any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish
6 hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism,
7 and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

8 (6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall only close if:

9 (A) the hatchery is unable to secure a National Pollution Discharge
10 Elimination System (NPDES) permit to continue operations after December
11 2027; or

12 (B) if the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery can be
13 replaced in a manner that is more cost-effective than the up front and operating
14 costs of the capital improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the
15 necessary permits to continue operating after December 2027.

16 Sec. __. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY; ANNUAL REPORT

17 On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural
18 Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on
19 Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees
20 on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding
21 efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish

1 production and stocking capacity of Vermont’s State-operated fish hatcheries,

2 including:

3 (1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the
4 Salisbury fish hatchery after December 2027;

5 (2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury
6 fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally operated fish
7 hatcheries, including estimated costs;

8 (3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish
9 hatchery to one or more State-operated fish hatcheries for the purpose of
10 replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery’s egg production, including estimated
11 costs;

12 (4) the potential to employ innovative or more cost-effective approaches
13 than those identified pursuant to subdivisions (1)–(3) of this section to replace
14 any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery,
15 including estimated costs; and

16 (5) options for limiting negative economic impact of the potential
17 closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 2027, including impacts
18 from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from the loss
19 of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

1 Sec. APPROPRIATION [PLACEHOLDER LANGUAGE]

2 The amount of \$550,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
3 Agency of Natural Resources for purposes of operating the Salisbury fish
4 hatchery during fiscal year 2025.